

REMARKS

The present response is intended to correspond with the Revised Amendment Format. Applicant understands that with the Revised Amendment Format, the provisions of 37 CFR §1.121 are waived. Should any part of the present response not be in full compliance with the requirements of the Revised Amendment Format, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned for immediate correction.

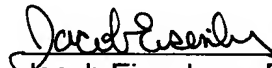
No new matter has been added by this preliminary amendment.

Claims 1-23 have been revised to conform to standard U.S. practice. The amendment thus would create no estoppel and would not limit applicability of the doctrine of equivalents.

In the event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension of time and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No.: 502464** referencing **client reference: 2001P83138WOUS**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

The Patent Office is invited to contact the undersigned for any reason.

Date: 03-15-2004
SIEMENS SCHWEIZ
Intellectual Property
IP, I-44
Albisriederstrasse 245
CH-8047 Zürich, Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0) 585 583 295
Fax: +41 (0) 585 583 228



Jacob Eisenberg, Esq.
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,410
Customer No.: 28204